

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 29, 2005. Claims 43-45, 50, 51, 59, 61, 63, 65, and 68 have been amended, claims 46 and 58 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 70-94 have been added. Claims 1-37, 43-45, 50, 51, 59 and 61-94 are presently pending. No new matter has been added. A marked-up version of the claims (with strikethrough to indicate deletions and underlining to indicate additions) is included with this Amendment for the convenience of the Examiner to facilitate comparison of the presently pending claims with those previously presented.

Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and drawings. Support for amendments relating to the neck/projection of a coupling member can be found at, for example, Figures 1 and 2 and Col. 9, lines 6-24. Support for amendments relating to the resilient deformable material can be found at, for example, Figures 1 and 2; Col. 7, lines 47-64; Col. 11, line 60 to Col. 12, line 29; and Col. 15, line 66 - Col 16, line 7. Support for amendments relating to the sockets can be found at, for example, Figures 1-3; Col. 7, lines 40-47; and Col. 11, line 60 to Col. 12, line 29. Support for amendments regarding the arm sections can be found at, for example, Figures 1-3; Col. 10, lines 61-66; and Col. 17, lines 45-54. Support for amendments regarding the disc-shaped base can be found at, for example, Figures 1 and 2 and Col. 11, lines 60-64. It will be understood that the cited passages and Figures are merely exemplary and that additional support may be found in other portions of the specification, claims, and drawings.

Claim Objections

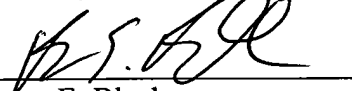
Claims 64-66 were objected to for lack of underlining. Claims 64-69 have been underlined according to 37 CFR 1.173(b)(2). The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to these claims.

because the present claims include a broadened form of the elements of claims 40 or 45 which elements were used to overcome the prior art rejections. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the present claims are allowable. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of claims 43-45, 50, 51, 58, 59, 61, 63 and 67-69.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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